



5-Year Plan (2011 to 2015) Warden Conservation District

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WSCC



Organization of the Warden Conservation District

A political subdivision of the State of Washington – authorities, powers and structure contained in RCW 89.08.

- Warden Conservation District entails section of both the Adams and Grant County. Our District is host to both irrigated and dry land crops. Our District was formed in 1953 and encompasses 264,380 acres. The District also is home to multiple livestock operations, including Dairies, Cattle Feeding Lots, and other livestock related venues.

Function of the Warden Conservation District

To take available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land manager with conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

We Serve

- State and federal agricultural agencies
- Landowners and occupiers
- Farmers and City Dwellers
- All land users

Why We Serve

- To be a buffer between Government and landowner.
- To act as a "rubber stamp" between other government agencies.
- We believe in protecting and preserving for future generations.
- Because people in general do not understand what conservation of natural resources involves.
- To promote the best use of natural resources.

Mission of the Warden Conservation District

- Advocate, promote and implement natural resources stewardship; promote economically viable and environmentally friendly practices that affect natural resources. Preserve, protect and enhance our natural resources.

Vision of the Warden Conservation District

- *The Warden Conservation District is recognized by all private landowners as a source of financial, technical and educational assistance in Grant and Adams County; and by local, state and federal authorities as the organization of choice to implement on-the-ground stewardship activities.*

Values of the Warden Conservation District

- Integrity
 - Conservation of natural resources
 - Enhancement of natural resources
 - Education of all land users
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Natural Resource Priorities and Goals:

- 1. Water Quality:** By 6/2015 cost share on PAM applicators and PAM for 50% of the remaining rill irrigated farmland.
 - Have EQIP funds available for irrigation conversions and sprinkler package updates.
- 2. Livestock:** offer continued education and support to involved cooperators about AFO/CAFO regulations by 6/2015.
- 3. Wild Life Enhancement:** Continue with the current Wildlife Habitat Projects being implemented through the Partnership with NRCS/WSCC/MLCD/GCD and Warden Conservation District throughout the length of this Plan.
 - By 6/2013 Have One (1) Wildlife Demonstration Project Plot implemented and available to the District to feature in District tours.
- 4. Odessa Aquifer / CB Water Initiative:** by 6/2015, continue to support and attend 50% of CBDC meetings.
- 5. District Operations:** By 6/2015 continue to have an open office available to cooperators a minimum of 30 hours per week.
 - By 6/2015 seek broader representation on the Board of Supervisors.
- 6. Dry Land Portion of District:** By 6/2015 offer technical assistance to our Dryland portion of the District to help dryland cooperators implement BMP's that will greatly enhance and protect our Natural Resources.

Critical Geographic Areas: (attached map)

- *Lind Coulee*
- *Weber Waste Way*
- *Eastern Portion of District (non-project irrigated water)*
- *Dry land portions of the District.*

Information – Education Priorities and Goals:

- *Work with the Warden School District to help fund the Warden High School Envirothon Team by 6/2015.*
- *By 6/2012 develop relationships with the Warden School District to educate youth on Natural Resource issues and offer support to the Schools for educational purposes and presentations.*
- *Continue partnering with WOW (Water on Wheels) to educate school aged children.*
- *By 6/2012 Release an electronic quarterly newsletter to educate the public.*

District Operations Priorities, Goals:

- By 6/2015 continue to have an open office available to cooperators a minimum of 30 hours per week.
- By 6/2015 seek broader representation on the Board of Supervisors.
- By 6/2015 Have EQIP funds available for irrigation conversions and sprinkler package conversions.
- By 6/2015 Cost Share PAM application to 50% of remaining rill irrigators.
- Educate involved cooperators about AFO/CAFO regulations by 6/2015.
- Continue with the current Wildlife Habitat Projects being implemented by the Warden Conservation District, NRCS, WSCC and other partners by 6-30-15.
- By 6/2015 offer technical assistance to the dryland cooperators in our District for implementation of BMP's.
- By 2015, continue to attend and support 50% of CBDC meetings.

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Warden Conservation District

- More demands on water in the Columbia River system
- Corporate farms getting bigger and bigger
- Larger farms and fewer farmers
- Increasing regulation of livestock activities
- Future of federal programs is questionable

- Less direct involvement by land owners and by absentee owners
- Move to circle irrigation – more efficient watering
- Federal programs are more geared toward larger farms
- The cost of production versus the price received for commodities
- Smaller spin-off of home sites on circle corners
- Economic Downfall
- Decline in water availability for farm lands from Odessa Aquifer area.
- Funding for District employees to be available for Cooperators is limited.

Strategies to Address Trends

▪ **Water Quality:**

Strategies: Speak to East Irrigation District Manager/Board.

Action: By 3/Each year make direct contact to track Rill Irrigated acres in the District.

Strategies: By 11/Each year, will reach 25% of all cooperators who are still using Rill Irrigation.

Action: A November meeting as well as information in a newsletter.

Strategies: By 11/Each year will educate cooperators on availability of EQUIP funds.

Action: Continue work with LWG.

Action: 11/Each year cooperator meeting.

Action: Release information in an electronic newsletter.

▪ **Livestock:**

Strategies: Maintain a current listing of AFO/CAFOs' in district.

Action: Staff will develop/maintain list by 12-31/each year.

Action: Staff will contact individual AFO/CAFOs' to offer assistance and/or education.

Action: Release information in electronic newsletter.

▪ **Wild Life Enhancement:**

Strategies: Provide staff to not only implement Wildlife Habitat Projects on ground, but also to offer education on available practices.

Action: Release Information in an electronic Newsletter and at annual meetings each year.

Action: Set up permanent demonstration plot.

Action: Contact interested parties to help with implementation.

▪ **Odessa Aquifer / CB Water Initiative:**

Strategies: Delegate Supervisor to attend meetings.

Action: Get on email listing.

Action: Report activity at monthly meeting.

Action: Solicit cooperator input.

▪ **District Operations:**

Strategies: Seek funding sources.

Action: The District Staff will find available funding sources and present them to the District Board. If the Board approves action the staff will then apply for the funding sources.

Strategies: Seek other opportunities to provide staffing through partnerships with other entities such As NRCS.

Action: Discuss employee sharing with surrounding Districts.

Action: Investigate alternative staffing possibilities i.e.: Work Source, Americorps, etc.

Strategies: Recruit additional Board Associates.

Action: Sell the ideas and concepts of the District to entities, persons, and groups that may be able to offer support to the Districts.

Action: Expanded annual meeting program.

Action: Encourage Warden High School to participate In Envirothon.

Staffing Needs

- 1 Full time office employee. and a part time planner/resource tech. Some of these positions may be handled through contracted/shared employees with other Districts and hourly rates will be determined by funding available.

Annual Budget Needs

Salary	\$ 79,000.00
Rent	\$ 1,800.00
Telephone/Internet	\$ 1,800.00
Office Supplies	\$ 700.00
Election Expense	\$ 150.00
Education	\$ 400.00
Training/Meetings	\$ 1,500.00
Travel	\$ 500.00
Advertising	\$ 100.00
Insurance	\$ 2,900.00
Dues/Subscriptions	\$ 2,500.00

Total Annual Budget Need \$91,350.00

Key Decision Makers

- *The first and most important key decision maker is the landowner or land manager. Their management decisions affect the condition of natural resources on a daily basis. There is a multitude of other key decision makers who can affect regulations governing land management and resources and sources of funding to establish and maintain technical and financial assistance programs in Grant and Adams County. They are as follows:*
- **Local**
 - State Representative Bill Hinkle, 13th Legislative District
102 Modular Building 1, PO Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504-0600
 - Representative Janea Holmquist, 13th Legislative District
436 John L. O'Brien Building, PO Box 40600, Olympia WA 98504- 0600
 - Senator Joyce Mulliken, 13th Legislative District
115B Irv Newhouse Building, PO Box 40413 Olympia, WA 98504-0413
 - Governor Christine Gregoire, Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002, Olympia, WA 98504-0002
 - Jay Manning, Director, Washington State Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600
 - Jeffery Koenings, Director, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N., Olympia, WA 98501
 - Valoria Loveland, Director, Washington Department of Agriculture
PO Box 42560, Olympia WA 98504-2560
 - Mark Clark, Executive Director, Washington Conservation Commission
P.O. Box 47721, Olympia WA 98504-7721
 - Doug Sutherland, Commissioner of Public Lands, Department of Natural Resources,
P.O. Box 47001, Olympia, WA 98504-7001

- William D. Ruckelshaus, Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board
P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, Washington 98504-0917
- Bob Bugert, Coordinator- Eastern Recovery Regions, Washington Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
1133 N Western Ave Wenatchee, WA 98801

▪ **Regional**

- Gus Highbanks, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service
316 W. Boone Ave., Suite 450, Spokane, WA 99201
- James F. Fitzgerald, State Executive Director, Washington State Farm Service Agency
316 W. Boone Ave., Suite 568, Spokane, WA 99201-2350
- Bob Lohn, Regional Administrator, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service - NW Region
7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle WA 98115-0070
- Joe Brock, Project Manager, Enforcement Section, US Army Corps of Engineers
Federal Center South, 4735 E. Marginal Way South, Seattle, Washington 98134
- Dave Allen, Regional Director, US Fish & Wildlife Service
911 NE 11th Ave, Portland, OR 97232
- Rodney Smoldon, USFS District Ranger, Cle Elum Ranger District
Wenatchee National Forest, 803 W. 2nd Street, Cle Elum, WA 98922
- Ron Kreizenbeck, Acting Regional Administrator, Region 10, Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101
- Frank L. "Larry" Cassidy, Jr., Washington Council member, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
110 Y Street Vancouver, WA, 98661
- Stephen J. (Steve) Wright, Administrator, Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621, Portland, OR 97208-3621

▪ **National**

- U.S. Representative Doc Hastings, 4th Congressional District
1323 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515-4704
 - Senator Maria Cantwell, US Congress,
717 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510
 - Senator Patty Murray US Congress,
173 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510
 - President George W. Bush, The White House,
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington,
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Priority Actions – 12 Months

Action	Begin Date	End Date
▪ Work with Rill Irrigated land owners to provide technical assistance on BMP's (ie PAM) to reduce soil erosion.	03-01-10	06-30-15
▪ Work with producers and provide technical assistance to help meet the AFO/CAFO regulations	03-01-10	06-30-15
▪ Set up permanent demonstration plot and contact interested parties to help them with implementation.	03-01-10	06-30-15
▪ Attend Columbia Basin Development Council meetings and report back to District Meetings.	03-01-10	06-30-15
▪ Seek funding to increase staffing hours and investigate alternative staffing and funding possibilities.	03-01-10	06-30-15

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices

